

# Bible Society Record

## For Good Friday

**A**Lmighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified; mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the Cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

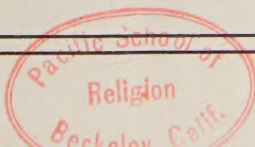
---The Book of Common Prayer



## For Easter

**S**pirit of all grace and benediction, Father of Jesus Christ and our Father, Creator of these dying bodies, Life and Light of these undying souls; help us to rise above the earthly to the heavenly; with Christ dying unto sin, and living only unto thee; and from the light of a true life here passing at length into that Presence, where there is fullness of joy and peace forevermore; grant this, O Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

---Service Book and Ordinal of the  
Presbyterian Church of South Africa





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# BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

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NUMBER 4

## The Universal Book—Read It!

By the Rev. Toyohiko Kagawa, D.D.

*The Japan Christian News Agency as sponsor, the American and British Bible Societies that work in Japan supporting the proposition, asked Dr. Kagawa to write an article for publication in the Tokyo "Nichi Nichi" and the Osaka "Mai Nichi" issues that would come out on Universal Bible Sunday. Dr. Kagawa consented, and his splendid article went before the eyes of approximately 2,000,000 readers. I send the first part of his article from those great papers.—KARL E. AURELL.*

### The Bathtub Saint

**M**R. T. UCHIYAMA, who recently died, for a decade had lived a most marvelous life. He literally prolonged his physical life more than ten years by keeping his body submerged in medicated water as a patient in the hospital of the Imperial University, in western Japan. The story runs as follows:

One day Uchiyama discovered a rash, which, when even slightly scratched, spread over the whole body. The skin specialist at the hospital diagnosed it as a very rare affliction the world over—pemphigus; for the alleviation of which the doctor prescribed the constant submersion of the body in medicated water. Living thus in water day and night, he might prolong his life.

Reluctantly the patient followed instruction. When the rash disappeared, he got out and stayed out of the water. At once the rash reappeared and spread and spread with great rapidity. The distress was terrible. The only recourse was to keep his body under water or to end his life. The latter he tried to do, but was prevented. The terrible prospect led him to bite and tear his tongue to shreds, hoping that might lead to the desired death.

At this juncture, a Christian minister under-

lined Romans 5:3, 4 in a 10-sen Testament, and sent it to Uchiyama. This wretched bathtub patient found that absolute leisure was unbearable, and obtained, in reading, some surcease. One day that Testament was put in his hands. Looking it over casually, his eyes fell

on the underlined words, and he read "we glory in tribulation also." With instant anger he shouted, "These words were marked to poke fun at me!" and threw the book away, exclaiming, "How unfortunate that I ever was born! It would be far better to be dead. I will die!" He tried to forget the words in the Testament. His all-consuming desire was to die.

But, wonder of wonders, those underlined words, casually read, were germinating seeds in his mind. They would not die out. "Glory in tribulation" resounded in his heart like a

voice from heaven! Finally, he asked for the Testament and started to read it from the beginning. He was struck with the concern Jesus, the carpenter, had for men—the hardships he endured for them, even suffering death by crucifixion. This was something new to him, and he said to himself, "What a wonderful man Jesus was! I am suffering only for myself; but this remarkable man suffered for others."

This afflicted man, with body submerged, as

### The Spirit of the Society

**I**N THE midst of national distress and depression, of suffering and hardships, the supreme need is a closer walk with God. One of the first steps in this is a better knowledge of Him. The thing we are called to do is to supply the needed printed Word. This is our commission,—enough to thrill the soul of a saint. And especially do I feel personally that this great, rich Mississippi Valley needs, and must have, the Word! It is the obligation of this office to supply that need in far greater quantities than ever before. Hitherto the supply has scarcely kept up with the increase in population, and not at all with the ordinary wear and tear of volumes in use. Multitudes are in financial distress and unable to purchase the volumes—they must be supplied. Multitudes are indifferent to the Word, and these must be touched, and interest aroused in the Word, that they too may come to know this River of Life which, coming into the hearts of men, will cause every manner of worthwhile fruit to grow in abundance. With gratitude in our hearts for the privileges and successes of the year just past, we look forward into the year at hand with a deep conviction that this our field needs more Bibles, more knowledge of the Word, more following of the teachings of our Lord and Master which alone will lead out of the morass of economic distress into the light of spiritual freedom.

From the report of Sec. McLaughlin, Northwestern District.



eagerness for reading the Testament increased, always carefully dried his hands that the book might not be injured, and held it aloft as he turned page after page, page after page. Almost unconsciously, he arrived at the conclusion that it was a mistake to want to cut short his present life. "If I am to suffer, let me suffer for other people. That is the proper attitude to take," he said. Every time he read the Testament through, he was conscious of being ushered deeper and deeper into a new world. It became clear to him that the secret of victory over all hardships was not attained by mere efforts of man, but absolutely by the power of Jesus Christ. And so, while obliged to continue to live in medicated water in that little bathtublike container, he found that he could fully enjoy the abundant mercies of God. Thus it was that this extraordinary watery bed became transformed into a palace. The ceiling above seemed to turn purple-colored, and in the medicated water goldenlike waves appeared to rise and splash around him. He forgot his troubles and became confident of the fact that he was a child of the God of the uni-

verse. He was overwhelmed with the assurance that God's Spirit was present everywhere. He arrived at the true meaning of the underlined verses—"Glory in tribulation: knowing that tribulation worketh steadfastness; and steadfastness, approvedness; and approvedness, hope." While in his physical existence there was no change, he was enabled to feel that the blessing of God was gently falling upon him—yes, enriching his soul. Therefore Mr. Uchiyama became known as a Bibleman, who, contrary to former days, took advantage of every opportunity of testifying to everybody of the wonderful mercy of God. Last summer it was more than ten years since he commenced to live this blessed life. Countless people who visited him were greatly helped and blessed from hearing and observing what the Lord Jesus Christ had done for him. In spite of that which would have seemed to produce the opposite as far as his physical condition was concerned, he departed this life "more than conqueror through Him (Christ) that loved him." The Bible is a Universal Book. Read it!

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## Notes and Comments

SECRETARY LACY reports the combined circulation figures for the American Bible Society, British and Foreign Bible Society, and National Bible Society of Scotland for 1934, in China, as reaching—

Bibles .....	74,841
Testaments .....	74,659
Portions .....	9,557,318
Total .....	9,706,818

\* \* \*

This is an increase of approximately 10% in whole Bibles, and about 3% in portions. The distribution of whole Bibles has been steadily growing in China.

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THE striking picture of the Taos pueblo on page 22 of the February 1935 BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD was from a beautiful photograph by Harold Kellogg. Credit should have been given to him at the time of its use. Taos is the correct spelling, and not Taous, as in the same RECORD.

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THE Secretary of the Caribbean Agency, on his recent visit to Venezuela, was agreeably surprised when the Rev. C. A. Phillips, of the Redentor Presbyterian Church in Caracas, handed him 169.60 bolivares, which at the present rate of exchange amounts to \$43.49. In-

stead of a regular Bible Sunday offering, the congregation sets aside two percent of all the church offerings for the Bible Society. The above amount represents their contribution.

• •

A RELEASED prisoner, not forgetting his former prison mates, wrote to the Pacific Agency, "I have just been released. In the prison there is a surprisingly large call for Bibles, and there are not enough to supply even fifty percent of the calls. Please send some Bibles to these."

• •

THE following letter has been received:

Enclosed find one dollar for a New Testament. About seven years ago I took one of your Testaments on display at the Central Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, Georgia. Upon writing, I found out the price and where to send the money for the wrong I did.

• •

ONE day during the strike two fine-looking young seamen came into the San Francisco depository, and one showed a Gospel given him at one of the missions. He said, "We have no money to buy a Bible, but after reading this Gospel, we want to know more about the Bible. Will you give us one?" They were given one of our twenty-five-cent Bibles, which they accepted with a smile. They left with the remark of one, "As soon as I get to work, I am going to buy a Bible."



# A Twelve Hundredth Anniversary

735

1935

By Lewis Birge Chamberlain

THE present is no time for living in the past. The immediacy of the problems and portents of today demand thoughtful attention and wise action. Nevertheless, the past has lessons for the present. Some of the most valuable spring from the lives of outstanding individuals, often living in the far past.

The Venerable Bede, or Baeda, was one such. The twelve hundredth anniversary of his death is being observed in May. By some he is known as the "father of English history"; others call him "the Teacher of the Middle Ages"; to others he is preeminent as the very first translator of the Scriptures into English, in its then form of Anglo-Saxon. By those among whom he lived he was honored and venerated for "his kindly and broad sympathies, his love of truth and fairness, his unfeigned piety, his devotion to the service of others," and his combination of great learning with a gentle and loving spirit.

Born in 672 or 673, and living all of his years practically in the same locality; placed by his parents at the age of seven in a neighboring monastery; becoming at nineteen a deacon, and at thirty a priest, he there spent his life, finding his chief pleasure in being always occupied in learning, teaching, or writing, and zealous in the performance of his monastic duties, especially in the musical.

With the aid of his church superiors, the wise and learned Bishop Benedict Biscop and Abbot Colfrid, he became a notable author, writing some forty-five volumes in three distinct fields—the scientific, historical, and theological. The most important and best known

of his works is his Ecclesiastical History of the English nation—"one of the most valuable and one of the most beautiful of historical works." His theological writings were largely commentaries on Scripture, and reveal his erudition both in languages and in wide reading. He knew Latin, Greek, and some Hebrew. It is said "that his works—scientific, historical, and theological—practically sum up all the learning of western Europe in his time, which he thus made available for his countrymen."

The great service which calls for his mention in these pages was his translation of the Gospel by St. John into Anglo-Saxon—the first translation of the Scriptures into any form of Eng-

lish. This was a labor of love, into which he threw his very life blood. Away back, one thousand two hundred years ago, long before printing, he wanted the common people to have the Scriptures in their own language.

His very last years he spent on the translation of the Gospel. In the



THE VENERABLE BEDE TRANSLATING ST. JOHN'S GOSPEL

One of the Murals of the American Bible Society Exhibition, Century of Progress

early days of 735, when he was about sixty-three, despite the weakness of failing health, he pressed on with this work. Of those last days a beautiful and touching account has been preserved, in a letter by one of his disciples, Cuthbert (afterward Abbot of Jarrow), to his co-disciple Cuthwin. As the record goes, his pupils sat about his bedside as the work went on. They would have him stop and spare himself, but he bade the scribe to "write quickly." The last sentence was written. "It is finished," he told Bede; and Bede replied, "It is well. You have said the truth. It is finished indeed."



Then he added, "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost," and died. It was on Ascension Day, in May 735.

Thus it is that, on May 27 of this year, occurs the one thousand two hundredth anniversary of the death of the first Englishman to become a great scholar, and the first to give the Scriptures to his countrymen in their own tongue. Well may we of this day recall and emphasize how a single life, quietly lived but nobly used, spreads its influence and service over country and century—yes, over countries and centuries.

As a worthy and fitting tribute to the Venerable Bede, it has been suggested that all who would honor him on this anniversary read through again, and persuade others to read through again, the Gospel of St. John. This is particularly urged in the March issue of the monthly publication of our great ally, the British and Foreign Bible Society. Such simul-

taneous reading of the fourth Gospel would be an impressive witness to Christian unity. Whatever be other differences, all Christians share a reverence for the Book of Books. Such simultaneous study of this one Gospel would be a manifestation of our oneness in Christ Jesus.

Again, such united reading and study of the Gospel would emphasize the mystical nature of Christianity; for the Gospel of St. John "is the charter of Christian mysticism." While we of America share with our British friends a practical rather than a mystical interpretation of religion, there is a place for the latter.

Would there not be a thrill in the thought, and a blessing from the fact, that Christians all over the broad expanse, not only of our own country, but of the continents of both hemispheres were at the same time reading and meditating on the wonderful record of Christ's life and teaching and their implications by the beloved disciple?

. . .

## In Arctic Grip or Behind Prison Bars the Bible Satisfies

By the Rev. Ralph W. Bayless, Secretary, Pacific District

**A**LASKA'S vastness of territory, isolation, and lack of transportation facilities can hardly be equaled by any country in all the world. With a staggering stretch of 26,000 miles of shore line, with a population of only one individual for every ten square miles, and the polar icepack allowing navigation to Point Barrow for only six weeks in the year, are factors that make this a unique country.

From this, America's last frontier and truly missionary country, a wide variety of missionary requests have come. "Send Bibles the quickest way possible, either freight or express." "Wrap in small parcels as they must be carried by dog team." "Send promptly, that we may have for distribution from our hospital ship as we call at the different ports." "Send for a race of folks just a short time out of an ancient civilization; for they are asking for the Word of God." "Send a Bible for a man in charge of the Chitina Indians, and for two others in similar capacity in other tribes." All these requests and similar show the eagerness for the Word of God in that far-off land.

One correspondent wrote, "The Bibles you sent came in fine. I have another Indian Sunday school close to Cordova that has not had a lesson help or a Bible to read or to teach from. What kind of a Sunday school would you expect without a sentence from the Word of God?" In response to this request, a grant of

Bibles was made and the report came to us that—made possible because of this gift of Bibles—still another Sunday school had been organized with twenty-five scholars in regular attendance.

And another request ran: "I have a Sunday school 130 miles north of here. I can get there but about three times a year. Yet those Indians are very religious, despite their ancient ways." The leader of this group was given a large Bible, and smaller ones were supplied for the children.

Another missionary wrote, "Your gift of Bibles came to us about the first of the year. Every Bible was given out to a junior boy or girl who had never before owned a Bible. They were so appreciative and thankful."

### I Was in Prison and Ye Came

The Protestant Federated Church in San Quentin—the nation's largest prison—has been a rich channel for Bible distribution during the year. Early in the year our Agency made a grant of 500 New Testaments, which the director of religious activities gave to the men in response to interest. Additional grants were made to meet personal requests. The director reports a surprising amount of Bible reading.

At the same great prison this happened:

Quen Shick, a Chinaman, was sentenced to die on the charge of murder. His fellow countrymen, his relatives, and his Chinese tong had



all forsaken him; for he really was a bad man. The Rev. Tse Kei Yuen, provided with the Scriptures by the American Bible Society, and appointed by the State Church Federation to care for the spiritual need of all Chinese there, found Quen Shick when he stood in the greatest need of spiritual help. At first, he was rebellious. What little religious life he had had was in the heathen religions of Old China. At length he consented to listen to the words of Jesus from the New Testament. He was converted and became a devout student of God's Word, and also spent much time in prayer.

When the faithful Chinese minister visited him on the next day, Quen Shick grabbed his hand and said, "I thank the Heavenly Father, and I thank you for coming." Reading aloud such passages as St. Mark 16: 15, 16, Romans 5: 8, John 11: 26, to each he exclaimed, "I believe it,—I believe it." Reminded of the reply of Jesus to the thief on the cross, he kept saying over and over, "This day,—this day!" Kneeling with the minister, he prayed for his people in China, his fellow countrymen in America, and the family of the man whom he had murdered, and then gave thanks for his own salvation. Arising, Quen Shick said, "In the midst of all this I am very, very happy."

When the warden of San Quentin learned of

this experience, with tear-dimmed eyes, he said, "This is wonderful, wonderful!" Truly it was.

In another prison an inmate requested a Bible. Ten days later the captain of the guard said, "Here, take this—it will do you good." Possibly he did not realize that it was the "Sword of the Spirit." The prisoner returned to his cell. As he lay on his cot, with the closed Bible on his chest, he said, "God, I do not know how to talk to you, nor how to use your Book. If you have anything for me, show it to me now." The Bible opened, and his eyes fell on Isaiah 55, "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters." A deep conviction came over him. He was converted in his cell that night, as the Word, "quick and powerful," probed his very soul. For more than three years he lived a radiant Christian life. He is now reinstated in society, daily witnessing for the Christ.

From another source came the following request:

"I have a long time to serve; but I have found God in here. Nearly two hundred of us want to learn more about Jesus. A recent fire destroyed the chapel and all the Bibles. Will you please send an unfortunate one, who is trying to do right, a Bible." Joyfully a grant was made.

## Among the Adirondacks

By Charles W. Fowle, Secretary, Eastern District



Mr. Fowle

IN June an extensive trip for Bible work was taken by the Rev. and Mrs. Harold Jones, of Albany, in their car with "trailer," through much of the northern Adirondack region. Independent of hotels and restaurants, because their trailer is outfitted to serve as a home on wheels besides carrying

its precious Bible cargo, this energetic couple visited the smallest hamlets, and lonely homes far from the state highways, occasionally even leaving their trailer in some village or tourist camp while they penetrated deeper, over soft dirt roads or steep rocky ones, to the families most seldom reached, whose members were often the most eager to welcome these Bible folk. At one such home they were greeted thus:

"We are glad to see you, Mr. Bibleman; for it was twelve years since you were here, and we very much wanted to get some more of those good Bibles. We had some of you years

ago, and gave them away, and we so much wanted to get some more."

Mr. Jones adds that they were much delighted with the improvement in the Society's Bibles, and especially with the twenty-five-cent and fifty-cent editions, of which they bought several for distribution among their friends higher still up the mountainside.

The tourist camps established at convenient intervals along the more traveled routes are at times used. The trailer promptly becomes a center of interest. Mr. Jones is quick to capitalize this by getting a group together, around a camp fire if the evening is chill, and talking over with them the things of the Bible. He makes good use during these trips of the Society's stereopticon lecture about its work throughout the world, giving it at times many rough miles away from the nearest country movie house.

There is great satisfaction in being told, as he was in one of these lonely hamlets, "When you were here years ago, we got this Bible from you, and it has been the foundation of our home ever since."



## Spreading the Word

By the Rev. G. B. Cameron, Secretary, Central District

NOT the least of favorable factors in the economic situation is the impending development of the valley of the Tennessee River, under the Federal Act creating the Tennessee Valley Authority.

The American Bible Society was represented on the regional committee of the Home Missions Council at Knoxville last March. Plans were promulgated for an adequate cooperation with Dr. Morgan, in his desire to awaken spiritual life among the inhabitants of the area, and in general to raise the morale of the people as a preparation for economic and general social improvement. Perhaps not in the immediate future, but certainly within a few years, an entirely new outlook on life and a quickening of spiritual life will come as a result of the combined efforts of the government and the religious forces working in that great social laboratory now being erected.



Mr. Cameron

who have had no opportunity to secure the Scriptures before are seen fairly hugging the volume as they walk away from the truck.

### City Missions

The Rev. F. W. Points rightly calls himself a missionary. He goes about from door to door in the poorest sections of Cincinnati and neighboring cities. Many of the calls are fruitless in sales made, but always a message is given, always a word of comfort, a pastoral prayer, and at least a portion of the Word of God.

There are many rebuffs in city work, where strangers are not welcome. One lady slammed the door in his face. As he was going down the steps, he called out, "God bless you." She quickly opened the door, and asked what he said. He repeated it and was invited within. He tells of gratifying reports from neighbors about the change that has come about Mrs. Smith or Mrs. Jones, because he brought them a Bible. Hearts are being brought to Christ through Mr. Points' labors, and the use of the Bible is being encouraged wherever he finds one in the home.

### Truck Colportage

The rural areas are being sadly neglected these days when so much emphasis is placed on urban needs. However, our Alabama colporteur, the Rev. W. L. Lyon, has been serving chiefly the rural population of that state with his truck. His method is to notify the people he will park at a certain place in a county seat for several days, word going around that he is there. Residents needing Scriptures come to him, as well as farmers coming to town; so that on market days there is quite a crowd waiting to buy. His sales during the last few months of the year were phenomenal, and represented chiefly Bibles and Testaments. On other days he canvasses the towns and rural districts, going south in the winter, and north in the state in summer. Many a man and woman

### Foreign Service

The Rev. Rade Pesut, himself a Croatian, is delivering the book of eternal mysteries to his fellows of foreign birth. Ignorance, so widespread among this neglected class, is the breeder of revolt; but we are certain through the spreading of the knowledge of the Christ a moral, and not a Red, revolution will result in Cleveland where Mr. Pesut labors. He is a bold salesman and is often accosted in pool-rooms and barber shop "fronts" by those who would belittle his religion and his books. His answers often have sold Bibles and turned antagonism into interest. He is lately turning more attention to the "second generation" of English-speaking children of these foreign born, endeavoring to watch their developing minds with a spiritual outlook.

• • •

## A Scattered Bible

A PATIENT in the American hospital in Turkey was given a copy of the Bible, and carried it home with him to his native Armenian village. He was proud of having it; but an Armenian priest, seeing the Bible in his hand, snatched it from him, tore it to pieces, and flung it into the street. There it lay, until a grocer, coming by, picked it up to use as

wrapping paper in his store. He wrapped such little purchases as a candle, a bit of cheese, a few olives, bought by the poorer villagers, in the leaves on which the Word of God was printed. In this strange way that one Bible was scattered all through the village.

Soon the grocer's customers began to ask him if he had any more leaves. They had read



the torn pages, and they wanted to know more of the book. The grocer did not know anything about the Bible, of course, and could not help them to find another. But the leaves were treasured, and read over and over again.

One day a missionary colporteur, on his round through the Turkish provinces, came to this obscure village. What was his amazement

when one hundred persons came hastening to him for Bibles, or parts of the Bible. No gospel had been preached, no Christian teacher had been at work. The scattered Bible had proclaimed its own message of light and life, and proved again that God's Word shall not return unto him void. This true story is told by the Bible colporteur.—*Missionary Gleanings*.

## One of Japan's Benefactors

By the Rev. Karl E. Aurell, Secretary, Japan Agency

THE Rev. Takayoshi Matsuyama, one of Japan's greatest benefactors, passed to his eternal reward. He was the last of the honorable group of original translators of the Bible into Japanese. Born on January 30, 1846, he was the scion of a family for generations regarded as leaders in local politics, Chinese literature, and Japanese learning. From childhood he became versed in old classics and poetry, and received advanced instruction under a man famous for wide learning in such and kindred subjects.

At twenty-one, he left his native place and joined movements for the restoration of reverence to the emperor and expulsion of foreign influence. In 1869 he proceeded first to Kyoto and then to Tokyo, where he was appointed master of certain ceremonies. Two years later, becoming alarmed with others over the introduction and spread in Japan of the strange foreign religion,—Christianity,—he secretly slipped away to Kobe and there began to study Christianity, in order to learn how best to exclude it from the empire. He changed his name to K. Seki and went to Dr. D. C. Greene, who then lived in Kobe, to learn English, his object being to examine the Bible and other Christian literature. About two years later, he was summoned to Tokyo by the educational department to discuss the matter of a merger of Shintoism and Buddhism to strengthen them against Christianity; but, nothing resulting, he returned to Kobe to look further into Christianity. Gradually, he began to understand the Christian religion, and almost unawares his dislike changed. By the light and power of the Holy Spirit its truth broke in upon his mind, faith was planted

deep in his heart, and with ten others he was baptized by Dr. Greene. This group immediately organized a church, which was the origin of the Kobe Kumiai (Congregational) Church.

In the meantime there had developed a call for a good translation of the Bible into Japanese. In 1872 a convention of missionaries resulted in the appointment of a translation committee. In 1874 Matsuyama was called by the American Bible Society to join that committee, together with Mr. M. Okuno, assisting Drs. Brown, Hepburn, and Greene who had started the translation. His special knowledge of Chinese character and Japanese literature made Matsuyama a most valuable man, shouldering large responsibility both in translation and laborious proofreading; Dr. Hepburn later testifying that "to Matsuyama was largely due the literary merit of the old version." The translation of the New Testament was completed in 1879.



REV. TAKAYOSHI MATSUYAMA

Mr. Matsuyama was then ordained and became the pastor of the Kobe Church which he had helped to establish. He had met Neesima in Yokohama years before; the friendship became very intimate, and there was constant cooperation in the activities of churches and the educational work at Doshisha.

In 1884 he became a member of the committee that translated the Old Testament into Japanese, rendering invaluable service. When that was completed, he was called to an Episcopal church in Kyoto. With two others he compiled a hymn book and later served in various capacities in both Kobe and Kyoto. Transferring his membership to the Episcopal Church in 1896, he was installed minister of



the Heian Church, taught also in the Heian Girls' School in Kyoto, and did valuable service in the compilation of the prayer book.

When, in 1911, the revision of the New Testament was decided on, he naturally was chosen a member of the committee. In token of their sincere appreciation of his long and valued services to the Bible cause in Japan, both the American and British Bible Societies made him an Honorary Life Member.

On January 4, 1935, in his ninetieth year, encircled by his family and their friends, Dr. K. Saiki, one of them, read a portion of Scripture and led in prayer. Faintly yet audibly,

Mr. Matsuyama joined in the amen and, with a truly peaceful expression on his face, quietly went to sleep.

As the King James translation in English and Luther's into German rendered incalculable service to English and German speech and literature, and even greater service to their spiritual life, so the translation of the Bible into Japanese is of colossal value to this progressive people. The more one reflects upon what is implicated in such an accomplishment, the more one's heart goes out in profound thanksgiving to Almighty God for raising men in early days and tremendous difficulties for this vital work.

## Three Pastors

By the Rev. Arthur F. Ragatz, D.D., Secretary, Western District

**T**HAT pastors not only can be, but are, important factors in the distribution of the Scriptures many illustrations prove.

### Idleness Creates Bible Demand

In one of the largest railroad centers in the West hundreds of employees were put on a three-day-a-week schedule. The enforced idleness of so many men in this wide-open town soon created a serious situation.

When a pastor, who had but recently come to town, suggested that a united effort be put forth by all the churches to interest these men during their leisure hours, he was told that nothing could be done for this class of men.

Undaunted in his zeal, he gathered a group of business and professional men, each of whom agreed to cultivate the friendship of at least one unemployed man. A vacant building was secured. Careful plans provided for one or two of the pastor's group to be in attendance every hour until closing time late at night.

From the beginning, a supply of New Testament portions was kept on a table. Soon the men began to read them, and as the books disappeared a new supply was furnished. Later on, Bibles were made available and were eagerly read. Domestic problems were discussed with the advisers, hearts were touched, homes were opened to pastoral calls, and dozens of families without Bibles discovered and supplied.

Though a man who himself did not attend church, the chief of police became an enthusiastic supporter of the plan because of results.

### A Beautiful Memorial

A pastor in a Western town gave lavishly of his time and strength to a home in which there was illness. All efforts to save the life of the son having failed, the sad last rites having been performed, the mother came to the pastor with

a gift for his services. Not feeling that he could accept, he suggested that the money be used for the purchase of Bibles, each one to be dedicated and inscribed as a memorial to the son who had been called to his eternal home.

The question asked by the pastor is here repeated,—Why not follow this plan in many churches and Sunday schools?

### A Letter of Thanks—and a Promise

A pastor in Montana writes: "I thank you with all my heart for the Scriptures so graciously given by the Bible Society." He then adds, "This is the fifth year without harvest on account of drought and locusts."

A more typical frontier project would be hard to find than this "larger parish" to which a grant of Scriptures was made. It covers hundreds of square miles, and is served only by this one indomitable pastor, who provides religious services for twelve different and widely scattered communities. He travels by auto enormous distances over sparsely settled prairies, from one community to another. Additional light on the situation is shed by his shipping directions. He requests that the Bible be securely wrapped and sent by parcel post, as his community is sixty miles from the nearest railway or express office and all shipments must be delivered by auto.

The answer to the question as to how such missionary work can be maintained, is found in the closing paragraph of his letter. In it he refers to the grant as a "temporary loan," and promises that it will be amply repaid by annual offerings to the Bible Society as soon as conditions change for the better,—“for our people would rather give than receive, and as soon as they have crops, they will gladly assume their full share of the giving.”



## Incidents from India

By the Rev. E. S. Nichols, Correspondent, American Mission, Madura, South India

*Last century our Society helped to finance the translation, publication, and distribution of Scriptures in the languages of India, where American missions were working. This century it has sent grants of money to several American missions, which they use for purchasing Scriptures for distribution in their fields from the British and Foreign Bible Society, which took over charge of the work in India as a part of the British Empire. These incidents come from one such source.*

ONE day a missionary visited a village school. It was a government school, with a Hindu teacher. There was not a Christian in the place. The missionary had with him a briefcase full of paper-covered books. He took out a package and showed them to the older boys. The pamphlets were on "Sore Eyes," "Malaria," "What You Buy at the Toddy Shop," "Thorobred Poultry," and other rural-uplift subjects. While the boys were counting their coppers and deciding which to buy, the teacher was exploring in the missionary's briefcase. He found another package. "Here," he said to the boys, "this is what you want to buy first. Those other books are all right; but this is what you need most in your lives." Whereupon, the missionary stood back and the non-Christian teacher sold out the whole supply of Gospels in a minute. He had studied Bible in a Christian school!

An elderly and cultured Hindu gentleman was in a mission hospital in Madura and had plenty of time to read. When our evangelist came around, he asked for some books. The evangelist knew that the man was well-read in Hindu philosophy, and was a little uncertain what sort of thing he would enjoy. So the evangelist loaned him a variety of books. The patient's later remark, when he left the hospital, was illuminating: "I have read many of your books. Most of them are good. But there is nothing like the Bible as a feast for my soul. It lifts me up to very lofty spiritual heights."

The same evangelist gave a young patient a free copy of St. Matthew's Gospel, because the youth asked him for a book about Christ. After a few days the young man said he had finished that and wanted another book on the same subject. The evangelist loaned him a New Testament. As he read it, his heart was touched. About the time of his discharge from the hospital, he said, "I have determined to take my principles of life from this book. It will not be easy, because my associates in the

place where I work will laugh at me. I cannot pay you for this book now, because my family will not give me any money for it. But I am going to earn money and buy a whole Bible for myself and read it through."

Scripture portions have been destroyed by the recipients. A remarkable story of what one such dismembered book accomplished reaches me from a reliable source. A simple villager stood up in a prayer meeting and told how he had become a Christian. He was tending his sheep in the fields one day, when he saw a bit of paper blown toward him by the wind. Out of idle curiosity he picked it up, to see what



CHRISTIAN WOMEN LEARNING TO READ THE BIBLE

Biblewoman-teacher at the left

was printed on it. He read it with difficulty; yet somehow he was attracted by it. It was a part of a story about Jesus Christ. He knew there was a Christian catechist in the village, and went to him that night to find out more of the story. In the course of time, he became a Christian; all because some one tore up a Gospel portion and the wind blew a page away.

Have I written you about the women who keep their Bibles in an empty jar on the top shelf of the pantry? Not that they have pantry shelves in Indian houses, but that is the nearest equivalent I can think of. Our Christian women, in some of the towns, spend much time in visiting their Hindu neighbors. They tell the Hindu women about Jesus, and when there is any response from a Hindu woman able to read, they give her a Bible portion. This they read aloud and discuss on their next visit.

next visit of  
Biblewoman



Finally, the Hindu women are ready to become Christians, and tell their husbands so. But the husbands have not had the benefit of all the previous study and prayer, and so they angrily tell the women to go back to the kitchen and forget about it. The women go back to the kitchen all right; but when the men have left the house and the housework is a little slack,

the wife pulls a book out of a blackened clay pot that hangs from the kitchen roof along with a dozen similar pots. It is her Bible. When she hears some one enter the front door, she replaces the Bible in its clay pot, and goes about her work with its words still singing themselves within her. This movement of "secret believers" is increasing and spreading.

## At First Hand

Miss M. T. Maxwell Ford, Missionary in Palestine

*This intimate touch with life and the Bible in the Holy Land came in a letter about a business matter, but is shared with our readers as sure to interest them.*

I HAVE had a long and happy experience in the land and know it well. I was here all through "war times," and came in touch with many people. We have given the knowledge of the way of salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ, and invited them to come to him, thousands of times,—Moslems, Jews, Druses, Bedouins, Arabs, Nominal Christians, and Metaweleh people (a sect of Moslems), who are all Arabic-speaking people. It is beautiful to see how many people during the last twenty years are reading the Bible, and portions of it circulated among them,—in places where formerly we were stoned, with stones! In two places lately, in Upper Galilee, priests were found reading and studying the Bible, where before they had ordered Bibles torn up and burnt!

Several years ago, I bought for a small sum a "pile of stones" in Safad, about three acres, overlooking the Sea of Galilee and 3,300 feet above it on the mountain slope. I had a Moslem builder come and wall in the place with the stones, and make necessary terraces. I had many seeds sown, of varieties of trees—pine trees, cypress, pepper trees, almond and "pride of China" trees, apricots,—with cactus for

hedges. Now some of the trees, grown from these seeds, are over sixty feet high, give us shade and breezes, and are shelter for many singing birds. The man who made the walls (a very nice man) could read. He had studied the Koran. I gave him a New Testament, Arabic vowelled, and with large print. He could read it easily. All of his family were Moslems, some of them very bigoted. Several years after, he sent to ask me to go to him. He was ill. But I was in America at the time. Later, this man sent for the caretaker of my home. He went, and the man said to him, "I am ill and dying, and I want Miss Ford to know that I believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is my Saviour, and that I have committed the keeping of my spirit to him!" He died soon after.

I have had some help and many Bibles and Gospels for our colportage work from Mr. Bell, your Agency Secretary at Cairo, Egypt. We have had blessed work among Moslem women here for years. Moslem religious chiefs are now keeping them away, and putting men on the road to catch the women. But we have found, and are finding, His sheep and lambs,—and they hear His voice.

## In the Charlotte Division

By the Rev. J. S. N. Tross, Ph.D., D.D., Secretary, Charlotte Division,  
The William Ingraham Haven Memorial Agency among the Colored People of the United States

FOR the Charlotte Division the year 1934 has been very fruitful in an increased appreciation of the Scriptures. It revealed a heightened interest in Bible reading in homes, in clubs, in churches, and even in state supported schools and colleges. Throughout this Division there were found heartening evidences that the Word of God is still living and active.

Over and over again during the year, attention was called to the fact that illiterate people in adult education projects of the F. E. R. A., when asked why they wanted to learn to read,

invariably stated that their chief purpose was to be able to read the Bible. The first thought of those in charge was to seek the aid of the American Bible Society in securing Bibles for these eager students. Such requests met with ready response.

Following suggestions from the home office, some changes in distribution emphasis were made, resulting not in less demand for, or interest in, portions, but in a substantial increase in the distribution of whole Bibles.

During the year 1934, jails, chain gangs, hos-



pitals, and county homes received special attention. Many were the expressions of joy in receiving the Word. One prisoner, held for murder and protesting his innocence, declared, "I read where God came to Peter in a prison. I prayed, and now He is with me always." This prisoner had lost hope and contemplated suicide; but the Word brought him consolation and hope. He was subsequently acquitted and is now an active member of a church in his city.

### "My Bible! My Bible"

The above were the words of an aged colored woman, dying in economic destitution. To those standing beside her bed she whispered, "My Bible! my Bible!" "It was a gift," she said. "The pages of that beautiful book are sacred to me. I do not want any dust to gather on its lids. It is a letter from my Maker. Its promises are rich and true. I believe them, and led others to its treasures. I have no health, no food, no heat, no friends. I could die peacefully without these, but not without the hope of this book. It is a gift from the American Bible Society—my Bible! my Bible!" And so Mir-

anda went out on the wings of her hope. Where the cause of the American Bible Society is advanced, the standard of living is raised, life renewed and hope revived; men run and are not weary; they walk and do not faint; the sting of death is extracted, and the grave loses its victory.

### Why He Bought So Many Bibles

Near the close of the year, an old man was sold five Bibles. Asked why he bought so many Bibles, he said, "I have reared four children the best I know how. I have not much money to give them. When I saw your Bibles, the thought came to me to give a Bible to each, and one to the old lady too. I am satisfied it will be the greatest gift that I can give them."

A volunteer worker writes: "I have more confidence in anyone who buys a Bible for the purpose of knowing more about Jesus, than I have in one who merely joins the church without a Bible. In traveling about over our area, I have been convinced that the American Bible Society is helping the rich and the poor, the white and the black, to search the Scriptures for themselves."

## A Splendid Opportunity

By H. John Woodfin, Central American Mission

THE annual national fair of Guatemala, in November 1934, gave a splendid opportunity to get the Word of God before the people. It is attended by people from all parts of the country, rich and poor, educated and ignorant; and many are possessed of an open mind to take in everything that is offered to them in a friendly spirit. A booth was secured in a very good location, not too near the merry-go-round and the lottery salesmen, but in line on one of the prominent promenades where many passed several times during their round of sight-seeing.

Funds for the expenses were raised locally, and with enthusiasm the missionaries decided to cooperate as best they could. Mr. Stevens happened to be in town and took the oversight of the booth. This was a great help. Different workers from the Garden of Roses institutions and the Bible Institute of Central America took afternoon or evening periods with groups of Bible students. We also had an Indian brother, Daniel Rodriguez, who had had experience in bookstand work. He had his daughter with him, in Indian costume. She had been taught to play the organ. This in itself drew many, many people to listen, as it is unusual that an Indian woman should do anything but grind corn, do the cooking, and care for the children.

A large sign was painted announcing the sale of Bibles and books; and also the Scripture text, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31). Many



BIBLE BOOTH AT GUATEMALA'S NATIONAL FAIR

stopped to read this sign. Some lingered to spell each word, and stayed with it till they got it all.

The government authorities gave us permission to play the organ and sing hymns; so we would sing a hymn, and then one of us would give a short message as to the contents of some part of the Scripture, and follow it by offering the Bible for sale; then another song to draw another group, and another message, etc.

Many bought copies of the Bible or Testa-



ments, and many portions and hundreds of Gospel tracts were given out to all classes of people. Cultured business men stood in astonishment, listening to words of wisdom from the

lips of the Indian brother or from a plain-looking student. The sale of Bibles was larger than for many years. The Bibles and Testaments are continuing the testimony in many homes.

## "I Thank You"

By the Rev. A. J. Allen, D.D., Secretary, Cleveland Division  
The William Ingraham Haven Memorial Agency among the Colored People of the United States

THE thirteen-year-old son of the Division Secretary was making a house-to-house canvass in Cleveland in his efforts to sell Bibles after school hours. In response to his knock on a door, he heard a fumbling at the knob. The door was finally opened by a middle-aged woman. He told her his mission and asked if she wished to buy a Bible. She replied that she was blind, and that his Bible could not be of much service to her. She added that it had been her desire for a long time to possess a Bible for the blind. Thereupon he told her that he felt sure that his father could help in getting the Bible she desired. She was visited by the Division Secretary and found very anxious to have the full set of volumes composing the Bible for the blind. But she did not have the money with which to pay even the special price of twenty-five cents a volume. Her case was presented to the congregation of Antioch Baptist Church of which she was a member. Funds to meet the special price were raised, and the full set of volumes secured and delivered.

It was a source of genuine joy to see the expression of elation and gratitude on the face of this blind woman as she, the Division Secretary, and his boy knelt in a prayer of dedication when

the Bible volumes were presented to her. She was informed that, while the special price was 25 cents a volume, the actual cost of production per volume was ten or twelve times this small sum. The explanation was made to her that special contributions to the fund for Bibles for the Blind on the part of Christian-hearted people had made this possible. Her reply was that she wished she had some way to let these generous people know how thankful she was for her Bible. The Division Secretary was leaving the following week to attend several conferences in the East. He promised this blind woman that wherever he spoke on his itinerary, he would not neglect to tell the people who contribute to the work of the American Bible Society, and particularly to the fund for Bibles for the Blind, the story of Mrs. Jennie Cheatham, and to tell them she said, "I thank you."

The story was told at a conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Immediately the missionary ladies, under the direction of Mrs. H. W. Thomas, the president, raised sufficient money to pay for a complete Bible in Braille for the Rev. J. P. W. Collier, a blind minister who was present, having been a member of the conference. Thus one incident of helpful service inspires others.

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### BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

EDITORS ..... *The Secretaries*

NEW YORK, APRIL 1935

#### AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

INSTITUTED 1816

Bible House, Astor Place, New York

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#### MARCH MEETING OF THE BOARD

THE eleventh stated meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and nineteenth year was held at the Bible House on Thursday, March 7, at 3:30 p. m., President John T. Manson in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Gen. Sec. North.

The minutes of the tenth stated meeting were presented and approved.

Mr. Stetson Baker, son of former Manager Herbert S. Baker, was elected a Manager and appointed a member of the Committee on Publication.

The minutes of the standing committees were presented and approved, and their recommendations adopted. A new "Order of Service" to be used in the dedication of a pulpit Bible was presented.

The Treasurer reported the following consignments to the Society's Foreign Agencies during the month of January: Brazil, 1,580 volumes, valued at \$960.98; Caribbean, 3,166 volumes, valued at \$1,034.39; La Plata, 70,900 volumes, valued at \$1,379.19; Mexico, 21 volumes, valued at \$23.92; Upper Andes, 13,220 volumes, valued at \$1,148.10; West Indies, 51,443 volumes, valued at \$883.85; total volumes, 140,330; total value, \$5,430.43.

The issues from the Bible House during the month of January were 285,796 volumes.



# CASH RECEIPTS IN FEBRUARY 1935

## LEGACIES

Titcomb, William O., Lynn, Mass.	\$1,885 68
Waring, Jenet S., Petersburg, Ill.	600 00
Taggart, Martha Y., Beaver Falls, Pa.	50 00
Thayer, Emma E.	13 57
	<u>\$2,549 25</u>

## ANNUITY GIFTS

Amount received during the month	<u>\$97,328 48</u>
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## AUXILIARY SOCIETIES

	Donation Account	Book Account
Orange Co., N. Y.	\$150 00	
Connecticut		\$7 81
Vermont		99 59
Massachusetts		1,200 00
St. Louis, Mo.		40 89
Sussex Co., N. J.		128 49
New York, N. Y.		111 57
	<u>\$1,588 35</u>	
Donation Account	150 00	
	<u>\$1,738 35</u>	

## DISTRICTS

Colored	\$880 34
Atlantic	2,729 23
Central	548 86
Eastern	2,014 11
National Capital	855 34
Northwestern	3,234 08

Pacific	\$2,371 28
South Atlantic	1,221 63
Southern	179 05
Southwestern	1,618 18
Western	1,363 93
	<u>\$17,016 03</u>

## FOREIGN AGENCIES

China	\$1 13
Siam	30 00
Levant	1 50
Upper Andes	3 20
	<u>\$35 83</u>

## Included in Districts' Receipts

Donations from Auxiliaries:	
New Bremen Bible Society, Ohio	\$75 00
Pennsylvania	617 95
Gifts from Churches	335 63
Gifts from Individuals	292 16
	<u>\$1,320 74</u>

## RETURNS FROM SCRIPTURES DONATED

Board of National Missions	\$8 30
London Missionary Society	385 60
	<u>\$393 90</u>

## RECAPITULATION

Legacies	\$2,549 25
Annuity Gifts	97,328 48
Auxiliary Societies, Donation Account	150 00

Auxiliary Societies, Book Account	\$1,588 35
Home Agencies	17,016 03
Returns from Scriptures Donated	393 90
Foreign Agencies	35 83
	<u>\$119,061 84</u>

## MISCELLANEOUS

Gifts from Churches	\$4,800 07
Gifts from Individuals	4,614 40
Gifts for Distribution to the Blind:	
Churches	\$10 00
Individuals	593 00
	<u>\$603 00</u>
Bible House Rentals	5,615 00
Income from Trust Funds	63 15
Income from Available Investments	16 50
Income from Annuity Investments	314 99
Income from Special Annuity Investments	20 00
Legacy Equalization Fund—Income	119 43
BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD	4 00
Sales to the Trade	628 91
Funds Received for Transmission	3,173 18
Annuity Gifts Invested—Principal	8 70
Wragg, Rev. and Mrs. J. P., Fund Invested—Principal	41 10
Sundries	20 68
	<u>\$20,043 11</u>
Total Receipts	<u>\$139,104 95</u>

# CASH STATEMENT FOR FEBRUARY 1935

## GENERAL CASH STATEMENT

### RECEIPTS

Balance from January 1935	\$112,166 72
From Home Agencies	17,016 03
From Foreign Agencies	35 83
Gifts from Churches	4,800 07
Gifts from Individuals	4,614 40
Gifts from Auxiliaries	150 00
Gifts for Distribution to Blind	603 00
Returns from Scriptures Donated	393 90
Legacies	2,549 25
Bible House Rentals	5,615 00
Annuity Gifts	97,328 48
Income from Trust Funds	63 15
Income from Available Investments	16 50
Income from Annuity Investments	314 99
Income from Special Annuity Investments	20 00
Legacy Equalization Fund—Income	119 43
BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD	4 00
Sales to Auxiliary Bible Societies	1,588 35
Sales to the Trade	628 91
Funds received for Transmission	3,173 18
Annuity Gifts Invested—Principal	8 70
Wragg, Rev. and Mrs. J. P., Fund Invested—Principal	41 10
Sundries	20 68
	<u>\$251,271 67</u>

### DISBURSEMENTS

General Salaries and Expenses	\$3,919 34
Treasurer's Office—Salaries and Expenses	1,242 99
Appeals	245 50
Diffusion of Information	2,224 16
Annuity Payments and Expenses	24,629 82
BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD	18 29
Church Budget Costs	75 12
Library	150 03
Pensions Paid	1,137 68
Plates of New Versions	1,135 23
Blind Fund Expenses	370 00
Bible House Expenses	5,414 37
Home Agencies Appropriations	12,206 00
Foreign Agencies Appropriations	17,369 14
Miscellaneous Home Appropriations	143 38
Miscellaneous Foreign Appropriations	1,502 00
Cash transferred to Publication Department	30,617 39
Trust Funds—Payments to Beneficiaries	929 17
Special Annuity Income Payments	141 75
United States Trust Co.—for Investments	66,899 06
Annuity Account Invested—Principal	2,513 30
Funds received for Transmission	3,510 03
Trust Funds Invested	8,873 14
Translation and Revision	405 80
Scriptures Purchased	44 04
Balance to March 1935	65,554 94
	<u>\$251,271 67</u>

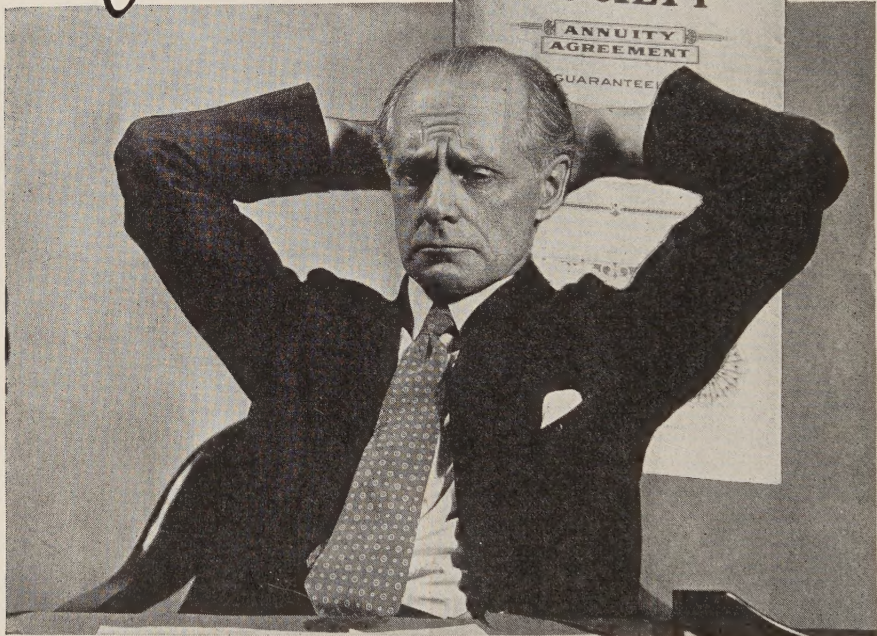
## PUBLICATION DEPARTMENT CASH STATEMENT

Balance from January 1935	\$21,116 62	Total Disbursements	\$35,653 03
Total Receipts	30,695 98	Balance to March 1935	16,159 57
	<u>\$51,812 60</u>		<u>\$51,812 60</u>

Total Cash Balance—Administration and Publication Departments .....\$81,714 51



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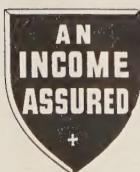
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